

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 15, 2009

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 26, 2009

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 22, 2009

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2009–10 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 710

Introduced by Assembly Member Yamada
(Coauthor: Assembly Member Carter)
(Coauthor: Senator Leno)

February 26, 2009

An act to add Section 703 to the Military and Veterans Code, relating to military and veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 710, as amended, Yamada. ~~Veterans' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Fund. Veterans: substance abuse and mental health services.~~

Existing law provides benefits for state military veterans.

This bill would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to ~~submit a grant application to the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)~~ *consult with the State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, as provided, to identify federal funds that are available for the purposes of funding community-based organizations, certified by the department, to provide substance abuse and mental health services to veterans, as specified, and to pay reasonable administrative expenses.*

~~This bill would require that all grant money awarded to the department by SAMHSA be deposited into the Veterans' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Fund, a special fund the bill would create, and~~

~~from which moneys would be appropriated by the Legislature to the department for purposes of funding community-based organizations that provide substance abuse and mental health programs that would benefit California veterans and to pay reasonable administrative expenses.~~

This bill would also require the department to develop a process by which to certify community-based organizations that receive funding, and require the department to establish criteria of success for the purpose of determining renewal of funding to those community-based organizations. The bill would, in counties in which there are no community-based organizations that serve veterans, permit a county to apply for a grant to be used for purposes related to the funding and provision of substance abuse and mental health services to veterans.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 703 is added to the Military and Veterans
2 Code, to read:

3 ~~703. (a) The department shall submit a grant application to~~
4 ~~the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services~~
5 ~~Administration (SAMHSA) for the purposes of funding~~
6 ~~community-based organizations, certified by the department, to~~
7 ~~provide substance abuse and mental health services to veterans.~~

8 ~~(b) All grant money awarded to the department by SAMHSA,~~
9 ~~and any interest earned thereon, shall be deposited into the~~
10 ~~Veterans' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Fund,~~
11 ~~which is hereby created as a special fund in the State Treasury.~~
12 ~~Moneys in the fund shall, upon appropriation by the Legislature,~~
13 ~~be used by the department for purposes of funding~~
14 ~~community-based organizations that provide substance abuse and~~
15 ~~mental health programs that, in the discretion of the secretary,~~
16 ~~would benefit California veterans and to pay reasonable~~
17 ~~administrative expenses.~~

18 *703. (a) The department shall, on or before June 30, 2010,*
19 *and on or before June 30 each year thereafter, consult with the*
20 *State Department of Mental Health and the State Department of*
21 *Alcohol and Drug Programs to identify federal funds that are*
22 *available for the purposes of funding community-based*

1 organizations, certified by the department, that provide substance
2 abuse and mental health services to veterans that, in the discretion
3 of the secretary, would benefit California veterans and to pay
4 reasonable administrative expenses.

5 (b) If federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
6 Administration funds are identified, the department shall apply
7 for the funds through the State Department of Mental Health or
8 the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs, or both. If
9 other funds are identified, the department shall apply for the funds
10 directly, to the extent authorized by state or federal law.

11 (c) (1) (A) The department shall determine how to allocate
12 ~~and disburse funds in the Veterans' Substance Abuse and Mental~~
13 ~~Health Services Fund~~ and disburse the funds specified in
14 subdivision (b) to community-based organizations. The funds
15 disbursed shall be used only for the purposes of providing
16 substance abuse and mental health services to veterans, including,
17 but not limited to, the treatment of posttraumatic stress disorder,
18 including military sexual trauma.

19 (B) For purposes of this subdivision, "military sexual trauma"
20 means sexual harassment or physical assault that is of a sexual
21 nature, which an individual experiences during the time he or she
22 is in the military.

23 (2) The department shall develop a certification process by
24 which to certify community-based organizations that receive
25 funding pursuant to this section. The department is authorized to
26 adopt certification standards or conditions that may be required
27 by ~~SAMHSA~~ the funding agency. Subject to subdivision (e), only
28 community-based organizations certified by the department shall
29 be eligible for funding.

30 (d) Community-based organizations that receive funds pursuant
31 to this section shall annually prepare a report on the programs and
32 services supported by those funds. The report shall be submitted
33 to the department for the purposes of determining renewal of
34 funding to a community-based organization, based upon criteria
35 for measuring success established by the department.

36 (e) In counties where there are no community-based
37 organizations that serve veterans, a county may apply for a grant
38 under this section to be used by the county for purposes related to

- 1 the funding and provision of substance abuse and mental health
- 2 services to veterans.

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